MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*):

(*a*) Selection of suitable persons according to subject requirements.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) It is not always possible to represent all sections and communities.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*): May I know from the member whether there was any Mahommedan member in the Text-Book Committee on previous occasions?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): Yes.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*): May I know whether there is any special reason for depriving him?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): There was only one official member and he was the Assistant Inspector of Mahommedan Schools. Now his full services are required in the office and so he cannot be spared to serve on the Committee.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*): May I know from the member whether it is for want of other qualified hands that none was appointed in the Committee?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): It is for want of Arabic books and not for want of qualified hands.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): May I know from the member whether all Arabic books sent up are approved by the Committee?

MR. R M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): This year there was only one Arabic book submitted for approval by the Committee.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): May I know whether it was approved and, if so, by whom? There is nobody in the Committee who knows Arabic. In that case, I want to know who approved the book?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): The Committee is only an advisory body and the book could have been seen by the Assistant Inspector of Mahommedan Schools or some other expert in the Department.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): So it was not approved by the Committee?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): That is so.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): Is there a rule that books approved by the Committee should be prescribed?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): There is a rule that books approved by the Committee shall be prescribed. But there is no rule that no other book shall be prescribed.

The Levee Officers.

316. *MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Will the Government be pleased to state who are the levee officers?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Officers in Trivandrum drawing a pay of Rs. 350 and above per mensem and also Heads of Departments and Offices the maximum pay

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

of whose appointment is not less than Rs. 300 are now considered as Levee Officers. Mofussil Dewan Peishkars and the Commissioner, Devicolam, are also included in the above group.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know from the member whether the members of the Legislature are included in the category of the Levee Officers?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No.

Import duty on Ceylon cocoanuts, copra and oil.

317. ✻**MR. S. J. NAIR** (*Nedumangad*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they are aware of the lowering of prices for cocoanuts, copra and oil in Travancore;

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative, whether it is due to the lowering of the import duty for Ceylon cocoanuts, copra and oil by the Government of India; and

(*c*) whether the Travancore Government are willing to address the Government of India to immediately enhance the import duty for Ceylon cocoanuts, copra and oil?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*):

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The fall in the prices of the articles in question is mainly due to the prevailing economic depression. The increasing import of Ceylon cocoanuts copra and cocoanut oil into the British Indian markets, due probably to the lowering of import duty on these articles, has also contributed to the fall in the prices of Travancore products.

(*c*) The Government of India have already been addressed to enhance the import duty on non-Indian cocoanuts, copra and oil.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know from the member who is responsible for lowering the import duty on Ceylon copra?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): The rate of duty was enhanced to 30 per cent. after the Ottawa agreement, and a reduction of 10 per cent. was made in favour of Empire products.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know from the member whether the Travancore Government was consulted when the import duty was lowered?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): I claim notice.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know from the member whether Ceylon has entered in the Ottawa agreement?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): I am not quite sure.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum.—Urban*): May I know from the member whether there is anybody in the Travancore Government service who has studied the economic problem and is capable of giving advice on such questions to Government?

PRESIDENT: The Commissioner himself.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly